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House-Approved "America COMPETES" Bill Includes Language Introduced By Carnahan to Create Energy Innovation Hubs

(WASHINGTON, DC) - Signaling a major new effort to reassert America's role as the world leader in innovation and the jobs of the 21st Century, the U.S. House of Representatives today passed the America COMPETES Act, cosponsored by Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3). The landmark legislation is designed to strengthen U.S. scientific and economic leadership, support employers, and create jobs in the short-, mid-, and long-term through investments in science, innovation, and education.

"America has been at the forefront of every technological innovation of the last century and most of our jobs since World War II have been created by new technology and innovation," Congressman Carnahan said. **"I believe we can and must continue to lead the world in innovation and technology.** **And**
St. Louis can and should play a major role in that effort."

Included in the bill approved today is a section authored by Carnahan that will strengthen regional economies by identifying **Energy Innovation Hubs** where research institutions can concentrate their efforts to move technological breakthroughs from the research and development phase to the market. The Hubs will help advance the U.S.'s transition to a clean-energy economy and to support the

growth of new sectors of the economy - and the jobs that come with them.

"In 1947, AT&T Bell Laboratories fully developed the transistor. In the 1950s, Lincoln Lab at MIT further developed the radar. Now, these Energy Innovation Hubs can produce the next breakthroughs required to lead the United States into the new clean-energy economy, tapping into the great tradition of American innovation to create the jobs of tomorrow,"
Carnahan said.

The COMPETES Act will strengthen the scientific and technological industries that are critical to maintaining our economic leadership now and in the future by:

- Making America the leader in clean-energy technology,
- Building and expanding our manufacturing industry,
- Emphasizing math, science, engineering, and technology education, so our students are prepared to compete in the global economy of the future, and
- Investing in innovative research.

"Because of America COMPETES, world-class institutions like Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Missouri will be able to continue their groundbreaking research into new technologies, while working locally with teachers to spark interest in math and science for future generations," Carnahan said.

A [report released earlier this month by The Science Coalition](#) underscores the connection between research and economic growth, tracing the origins of 100 successful American companies - like Google, Genentech and Cisco Systems - to breakthrough research backed by federal investments.

The America COMPETES bill will improve STEM education and ensure a prepared workforce by making it easier for secondary schools to participate in teacher training programs and encouraging college students to receive math and science degrees. The legislation will also help strengthen a key program that helps small- and mid-sized manufacturers in Missouri and across the country compete in the global economy and hire more workers.

Congressman Carnahan held a press conference call with one of these manufacturers, Chuck Gerding of Gerding Enterprise in Dittmer, Missouri. Gerding Enterprise is celebrating their 50th anniversary thanks in part to assistance from Missouri Enterprise, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Center in Missouri.

Missouri Enterprise, helps more than 300 companies each year realize significant increases in customer satisfaction, sales, quality and profitability along with material and labor savings.

"This bill is good legislation because it authorizes for another five years the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a program that has a proven track record of more than 20 years of helping small- and medium-size manufacturers improve their processes, utilize new technologies, be more profitable and compete with companies around the world," said Harold Zinn, Vice President of Corporate Communications with Missouri Enterprise.

Over 600 Missouri and national organizations have endorsed the legislation including: Washington University in St. Louis, University of Missouri System, National Association of

Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

To view Russ Carnahan speaking in favor of the legislation on the U.S. House floor earlier this month visit [youtube.com/congressmancarnahan](https://www.youtube.com/congressmancarnahan) or read his statement [here](#) .

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